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**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR  
CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND ELDERS**

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TESTIMONY OF  
**BRENDA DONALD WALKER**  
DEPUTY MAYOR

**OVERSIGHT HEARING ON THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
ADRIAN FENTY, CHAIRPERSON

MARCH 9, 2006

Council Chambers  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
10:00 A.M.

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Good morning Chairperson Fenty and members on the Committee on Human Services. My name is Brenda Donald Walker, and I am the Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families and Elders. I am pleased to testify before you today, on behalf of Mayor Anthony Williams, at this oversight hearing on the Department of Human Services.

I am first and foremost here to assure everyone that despite the transitions the department is undergoing, DHS will not stray from its path to continuous improvement and service delivery. I am pleased to welcome the new interim director, Ms. Vanessa Chappell-Lee, to her new role as interim head of the department. While her role may be new, Ms. Chappell-Lee is no stranger to DHS. For the last two years, she has served as Deputy Director for Programs where she had management oversight over DHS' four core program administrations, including those serving welfare recipients, the homeless, and those with physical and mental disabilities.

Ms. Chappell-Lee has demonstrated her commitment both to the clients and staff of DHS and is well-poised to demonstrate the necessary leadership to guide the agency during this interim period. She will be supported by a strong senior management team who are sitting here before you today: Kate Jesburg, Income Maintenance Administrator, Barbara Kamara, Early Care

Education Administrator, Ricardo Lyles, Family Services Administrator, and Elizabeth Parker, Rehabilitation Services Administrator, who was before you on Monday.

As the District's human services agency charged with caring for those in the greatest need, DHS works to live its mission of "uplifting lives" by providing meaningful, quality-of-life, support services to our residents.

During FY 2005, these efforts touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals in the community who needed services ranging from safe, affordable childcare to shelter for those who have nowhere to call home to those who need our assistance to get back on their feet.

In the process of serving those vulnerable citizens, DHS achieved or exceeded most of its FY05 performance measures. This success was possible through the hard work of DHS staff in combination with our myriad of partners including federal agencies, community and faith-based organizations and advocates. Together, these critical players allow DHS to create, fund, and implement much needed social service strategies throughout our city.

I am committed, just as I know the new interim director, administrators and staff are, to ensuring DHS is strengthened and empowered to effectively uplift the lives of our most vulnerable citizens. I will now give the new interim director the opportunity to introduce herself, give an overview of the department, and let the administrators get into the nuts and bolts of the department's FY05 performance with you. Thank you for your time.